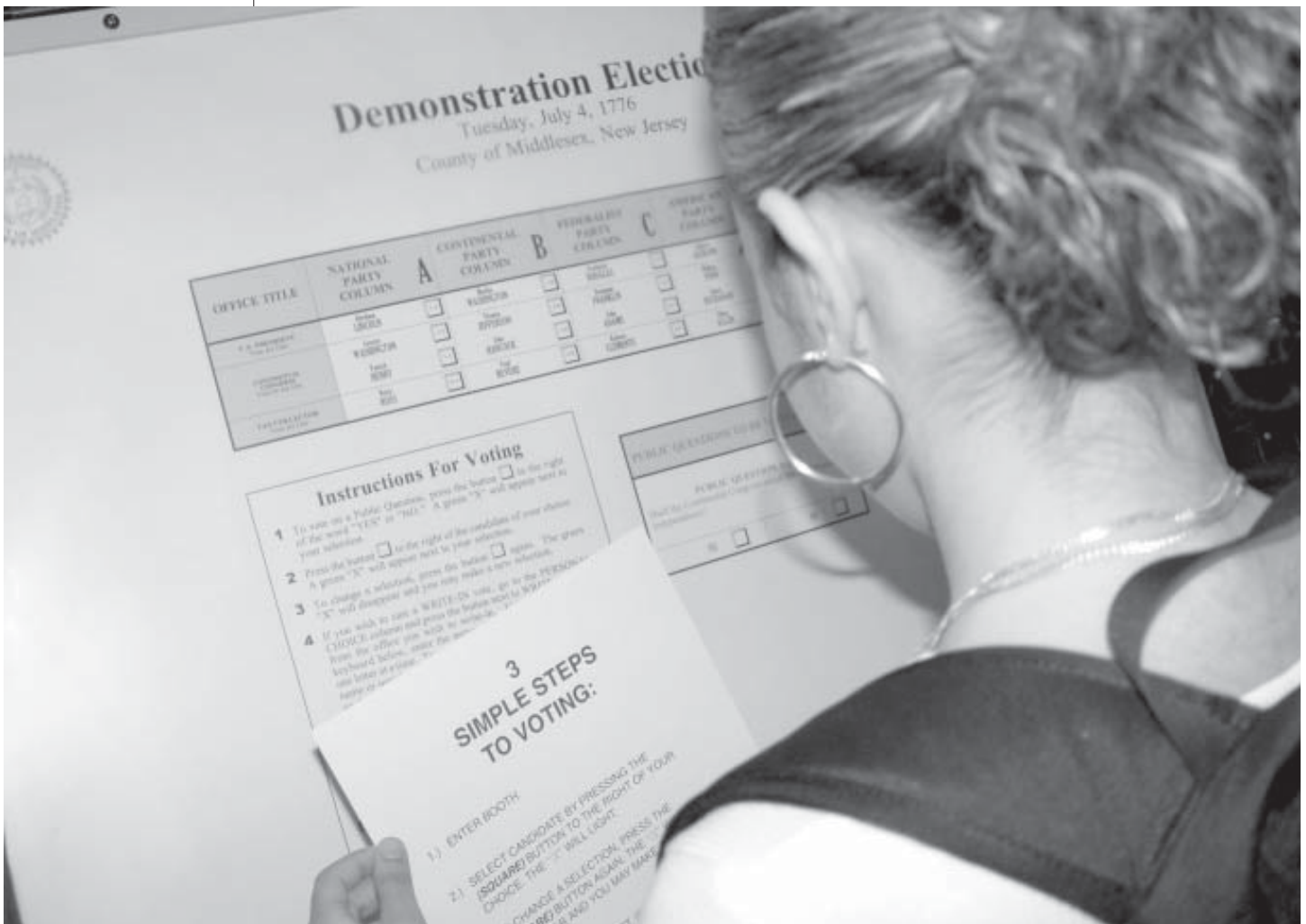


Division of Elections

Officially established in 1979, the Division of Elections is responsible for accepting all nominating petitions for statewide offices, inspecting and reviewing those petitions for validity, and managing the petition challenge process. The Division also certifies candidates for the primary and general elections, certifies election results, examines and certifies voting equipment and reviews the physical accessibility of polling sites. Other duties of the Division include the maintenance of election district maps and the provision of voter registration forms to the 21 county commissioners of registration. The Division also provides assistance to county-level election officials, county clerks and to the public on administrative matters pertaining to voting and the elections process. By law, the Attorney General is the State's Chief Election Official. Additional information about the Division of Elections is available by visiting www.NJElections.org.



2006 Highlights

Notice of Proposed Re-Adoption of Election Rules—

Rules pertaining to the administration of elections in New Jersey were scheduled to expire in April 2006. That resulted in a proposal by the Division to re-adopt, with key-note amendments, the state's election rules. The amendments typically involved changing regulations in order to ensure compliance with the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002. Following the requisite public notification process prescribed by state statute, the proposed election rules and amendments were adopted in November 2006. The rules will have a positive impact on elections throughout New Jersey. Specifically, the rules address such concerns as the voter registration process, procedures for declaring party affiliation, and the deadline for submitting absentee ballot applications. The amendments also set forth guidelines pertaining to the accessibility of polling places for the disabled, and provide for creation of a "Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee" in each county. The responsibilities of the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee include, but are not limited to, inspection of all polling places, reporting to the Attorney General on the status of polling place accessibility in their counties and what measures will be undertaken to ensure compliance with the mandates of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990.

Chronological Elections Guide—

The Division made available in 2006 a new, expanded edition of the New Jersey Chronological Elections Guide. The Chronological Elections Guide sets forth important deadlines for the major elections held in New Jersey. Those elections include the annual school board elections held in April, the municipal elections held in certain non-partisan municipalities in May, the primary elections held in June, and the general elections held in November.

In addition to a schedule of key election dates, the Chronological Elections Guide contains an outline of the specific duties of New Jersey's various election officials, and includes informative sections regarding school board and non-partisan municipal elections. The guide also includes congressional and legislative district maps to familiarize the reader with voting districts statewide, as well as a glossary of election terms and other useful information. The Chronological Elections Guide is available in both English and Spanish language version by visiting the Division of Elections Web site at www.NJElections.org. Printed copies are also available by mail and can be requested by calling the Division of Elections at (609) 292-3760.

Compilation of Birth Date Data for Statewide Voter System—

The Division, working in conjunction with the Attorney General's HAVA Unit, continued in 2006 with tasks related to implementation of the Statewide Voter Registration System. Specifically, the Division undertook the job of soliciting and processing updated birth date information to ensure proper maintenance of voter records as required under the Help America Vote Act. The information regarding birth dates for registered voters was made a requirement following enactment of the Help America Vote Act. Prior to its enactment, birth date information was not required. In all, Division of Elections staff processed 445,000 birth date responses from voters in 2006. Processing included reviewing the materials submitted, scanning the information and forwarding it to the appropriate county Commissioner of Registration so that the individual's official voting record could be updated.



**Division of
Elections**